GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3448
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND US ON ENVIRONMENT
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost policy and technical cooperation in the environment sector, India and US have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in this regard;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance to be provided by US to India ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) Yes, sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of environment was signed between Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA).

The MOU provides a framework for policy and technical cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the USEPA on the basis of common concern for the protection of environment as well as to pursue sustainable development. The cooperative activities under the MOU are expected to take a variety of forms such as information exchange, joint research projects, training and demonstration projects. The areas to be covered are environmental governance, air and water quality, and management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste. Projects may cover environmental health, pollution prevention, environmental management systems, public access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making, the environmental dimension of trade and investment liberalisation, etc.

(c) While the MOU envisages that a number of activities may involve a transfer of funds, the extent of such transfer is not specified.